



*Office of the United States Attorney
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Eastern District of Kentucky*

Lincoln County Man Pleads Guilty to Producing, Possessing of Child Pornography

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 13, 2007**

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LEXINGTON, Ky. — Charles D. Johnson, Jr., 25, pleaded guilty to two counts of producing child pornography and one count of possessing child pornography, after being indicted in November of last year.

Johnson's plea came on the morning his jury trial was scheduled to begin. He pleaded guilty before United States District Court Judge Jennifer B. Coffman.

In the course of his plea, Johnson admitted that in August and October of 2006, he coerced a five-year-old girl to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing visual depictions of such conduct. Johnson also admitted to possessing a videotape which contained visual depictions involving a minor engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Johnson faces a minimum of 15 years and up to 30 years in prison, a maximum fine of \$250,000 and the possibility of supervised release for the remainder of his life. His sentencing is scheduled for United States District Court in Lexington, Ky. on May 14, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.

Amul Thapar, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky, said the victimization of our children is something his office will continue to attack.

"This should send a message to those who prey on our children that we will find and prosecute them to the fullest extent of the law," Thapar said. "We will continue to fight for the rights of our children to grow up in a society free of child predators."

The investigation was conducted by the Kentucky State Police. Assistant United States Attorney Erin May represented the United States in the case.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafechildhood.gov/.

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